

MOSQUITOES CAN CARRY DISEASE

Mosquitoes take about two weeks to develop from egg to adult. A small but growing number of the insects transmit disease.

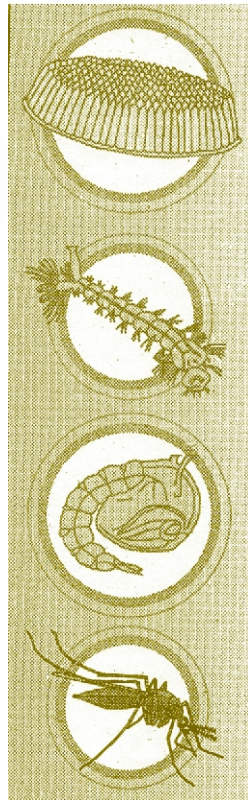


Mosquito-borne Illness

West Nile virus:

No symptoms, mild flu-like symptoms or in rare cases aseptic meningitis or encephalitis

Mosquito Life Cycle



Egg:

Needs water to hatch; females lay up to 450 at a time, usually in swamps or standing water in gutters, old tires.

Larva:

Lives in water called "wiggler"; sheds skin four times in four to 10 days; eats one-celled organisms.

Pupa:

Can move away from water surface by flipping tail; grows into adult in two to four days.

Adult:

Pupa's skin splits, adults struggle free; females live 30 days more, feed on blood; males live seven to 10 days, feed on plant juices.

- Eliminate standing water; turn over wading pools, clear gutters; anything that collects water around the home.
- Use bug repellent with DEET (can be poisonous if not used according to directions). For children use a concentration of less than 30 percent.
- Limit time outdoors during dusk and dawn.
- Wear long-sleeved loose clothes outdoors to avoid mosquito bites
- Repair holes in window screens.

For More Information Please Call:
(202) 535-2323
or See the DOH Website: www.dchealth.dc.gov



Government of the District of Columbia
Anthony A. Williams, Mayor